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United States District Court  
Southern District Of California  
**(Honorable Larry A. Burns)**

United States Of America,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
V.  
  
Nicole Kissane,  
  
Defendant.

Case No.: 15CR1928-LAB

**Memorandum Of Points Of Authorities  
In Support Of Motion**

**INTRODUCTION**

Defendant Nicole Kissane moves to dismiss the indictment charging her with conspiracy to violate the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (“AETA” or “the Act”), 18 U.S.C. § 43(a)(2)(C), because the Act is substantially overbroad. The Government agrees that the plain language of the AETA’s conspiracy provision requires only an agreement to travel in interstate commerce for the purpose of disrupting the operations of an animal enterprise; the provision requires neither an agreement to damage property nor an agreement to threaten to do so. Thus, simply speaking out against an animal enterprise with the intent of reducing the enterprise’s profit margin could make one liable for domestic terrorism under the Act. These plain terms make the reach of the statute grossly overbroad on its face. Even if this Court reads the conspiracy provision more narrowly, the statute’s criminalization

1 of causing loss of an animal enterprise's personal property is independently  
 2 overbroad. Under either reading of the statute, this Court should grant the instant  
 3 motion and dismiss the indictment against Ms. Kissane.

#### 4 **ARGUMENT**

##### 5 **I. MS. KISSANE HAS STANDING TO BRING A FACIAL** 6 **CHALLENGE TO THE AETA**

7 The AETA is invalid on its face because it infringes on freedom of speech  
 8 and association. *See, e.g., Connally v. Gen. Constr. Co.*, 269 U.S. 385, 391 (1926)  
 9 (criminal statute infringing on speech and association rights invalid on its face); *see*  
 10 *also United States v. Perelman*, 695 F.3d 866 (9th Cir. 2012), *U.S. v. Schales*, 546  
 11 F.3d 965, 970-73 (9th Cir. 2008). Because Ms. Kissane is being prosecuted under  
 12 the Act, she has standing to challenge the statute facially.

##### 13 **II. THE AETA IS SUBSTANTIALLY OVERBROAD**

14 The overbreadth doctrine protects individuals who “may well refrain from  
 15 exercising their rights for fear of criminal sanctions provided by a statute  
 16 susceptible of application to protected expression.” *Gooding v. Wilson*, 405 U.S.  
 17 518, 521 (1972). A facial challenge lies where there is a “realistic danger that the  
 18 statute itself will significantly compromise recognized First Amendment  
 19 protections of parties not before the Court,” *City Council v. Taxpayers for Vincent*,  
 20 466 U.S. 789, 801 (1984), a “substantial risk that application of the provision will  
 21 lead to the suppression of speech,” *Nat’l Endowment for the Arts v. Finley*, 524  
 22 U.S. 569, 580 (1998), or the “arguably impermissible applications of the statute  
 23 amount to more than a tiny fraction of the materials within the statute’s reach,” *New*  
 24 *York v. Ferber*, 458 U.S. 747, 773 (1982). Criminal statutes challenged for  
 25 overbreadth must be examined particularly carefully. *City of Houston v. Hill*, 482  
 26 U.S. 451, 459 (1987).

27 The AETA is overbroad in two distinct respects. First, the AETA’s  
 28 conspiracy provision, subsection (a)(2)(C), is overbroad because it punishes any

1 interstate travel undertaken “for the purpose of damaging or interfering with the  
2 operations of an animal enterprise,” without requiring the conspiracy to cause the  
3 loss of property or a threat. 18 U.S.C. § 42(a)(2)(C). Moreover, the provision has  
4 no *actus reus*: it prohibits having a particular purpose and causing a particular  
5 effect, but it fails to define the specific conduct that is unlawful. Thus, the  
6 conspiracy provision criminalizes pure speech so long as the jurisdictional hook of  
7 interstate travel is satisfied.

8 Second, the AETA’s property-loss provision, subsection (a)(2)(A), is  
9 overbroad. To begin with, like subsection (a)(2)(C), (a)(2)(A) applies to pure  
10 speech. Moreover, it prohibits damaging or causing the loss of *any* property  
11 without prohibiting a particular criminal act. Because “property” as commonly  
12 defined includes money and intangibles, this provision makes it a federal crime to  
13 engage in speech that causes a business to spend money or lose profit. Finally, like  
14 (a)(2)(C), there is no element of *actus reus* in the property-loss provision. Thus,  
15 like (a)(2)(C), (a)(2)(A) applies to pure speech uttered with the particular purpose  
16 and effect of interfering with an animal enterprise. This sweeps in too much  
17 protected speech.

18 In short, the two subsections make it a federal crime to conspire to engage in  
19 speech that opposes an animal enterprise or to engage in speech that causes such a  
20 business to spend money or lose profit. And while the AETA does have a rule of  
21 construction purporting to limit its application to “expressive conduct,” a general  
22 First Amendment exception cannot save a statute so vastly overbroad as this.

**A. The conspiracy provision of the AETA is substantially overbroad because it punishes as an act of domestic terrorism mere agreement to travel interstate for the purpose of damaging or interfering with an animal enterprise**

1. The plain language and structure of the AETA make it a crime to agree to travel interstate for the purpose of damaging or interfering with the operations of an animal enterprise

The first step in overbreadth analysis is to interpret the challenged statute. *See United States v. Stevens*, 559 U.S. 460, 474 (2010). The interpretation of a statute, in turn, begins with the plain meaning of the statute's terms. *See United States v. Shill*, 740 F.3d 1347, 1351 (9th Cir. 2014).

The AETA provides that whoever:

- (a) Travels in interstate or foreign commerce, or uses or causes to be used the mail or any facility of interstate or foreign commerce—
    - (1) for the purpose of damaging or interfering with the operations of an animal enterprise; and
    - (2) in connection with such purpose --
      - (A) intentionally damages or causes the loss of any real or personal property (including animals or records) used by an animal enterprise, or any real or personal property of a person or entity having a connection to, relationship with, or transactions with an animal enterprise;
      - (B) intentionally places a person in reasonable fear of the death of, or serious bodily injury to that person, a member of the immediate family (as defined in section 115) of that person, or a spouse or intimate partner of that person by a course of conduct involving threats, acts of vandalism, property damage, criminal trespass, harassment, or intimidation; or
      - (C) conspires or attempts to do so;
- shall be punished as provided for in subsection (b).

18 U.S.C. § 43(a).

1 The plain terms of the statute show that subsection (a)(2)(C) criminalizes a  
 2 conspiracy to engage in the acts and purpose set out in (a)(1). In other words, the  
 3 Act makes it a crime simply to conspire to 1) travel in interstate commerce 2) for  
 4 the purpose of damaging or interfering with the operations of an animal enterprise.  
 5 No more is required to violate the Act's prohibition. This is so because (a)(2)(C)'s  
 6 conspiracy offense is included as one of three entire separate offense descriptions,  
 7 joined together by the disjunctive "or." This disjunctive structure requires each  
 8 subsection be given independent application. So, (a)(2)(C) is operative without  
 9 regard to the terms of either (a)(2)(A) or (a)(2)(B). Thus, just as threats under  
 10 (a)(2)(B) do not require any damages to property under (a)(2)(A), a conspiracy  
 11 under (a)(2)(C) similarly stands alone as a basis for criminal liability. In other  
 12 words, the conspiracy criminalized under the Act is an agreement to travel  
 13 interstate with the purpose of damaging or interfering with an animal enterprise  
 14 under (a)(1), not a conspiracy to damage property under subsection (a)(2)(A) or to  
 15 threaten injury under subsection (a)(2)(B).

16 Consistent with this plain reading, the Government in its Preliminary Trial  
 17 Memorandum stated that "[t]he elements of a violation of . . . (a)(2)(C) . . . are:

- 18 1. There was an agreement between at least two persons:
  - 19 a. to travel in interstate or foreign commerce;
  - 20 b. for the purpose of damaging or interfering with the  
 operation of an animal enterprise;
- 21 2. The defendant became a member of the conspiracy knowing of one  
 of its objects and intending to help accomplish it; and
- 22 3. The offense resulted in more than \$100,000 in damages (increases  
 the statutory maximum to 10 years.)

23  
 24 *See* Dckt. No. 60, p. 21.<sup>1</sup>

25  
 26 <sup>1</sup> Elements 1 and 2 apply to all conspiracy charges under (a)(2)(C). The third  
 27 element will vary depending on the penalty sought; for example,  
 28 section 43(b)(1)(A) allows for a conviction even if the offense results in no  
 economic damage.

The structure of other federal criminal statutes further supports the Ms. Kissane's and the Government's reading. Other statutes criminalizing attempt and/or conspiracy either (1) include the attempt/conspiracy language in each subsection of the statute,<sup>2</sup> (2) include a separate attempt/conspiracy subsection explicitly identifying other subsections it incorporates,<sup>3</sup> or (3) have attempt/conspiracy language separate and apart from the list of subsections of offenses and separated by "or," thus indicating that the conspiracy/attempt language applies to all subsections in the list.<sup>4</sup> Each of the above three methods are clear in their text and structure as to how attempt or conspiracy operates *vis-a-vis* other

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., 18 U.S.C. § 247(a) ("Whoever . . . (1) intentionally . . . destroys any religious real property . . . , or attempts to do so; or (2) intentionally obstruct . . . any person in the enjoyment of that person's free exercise of religious beliefs, or attempts to do so; shall be punished . . . ."); accord 18 U.S.C. §§ 33, 81, 175, 248, 609, 793, 794, 832, 836, 924, 930, 1203, 1204, 1262, 1362, 1363, 1365, 1368, 1470, 1505, 1512, 1513, 1791, 1951, 1959, 2071, 2118, 2119, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2241, 2251, 2260, 2275, 2332, 2385, 2388, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2425, 2339(a), 2339A, 2339B.

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., 18 U.S.C. § 32(a) ("Whoever willfully – (8) attempts or conspires to do anything prohibited under paragraphs (1) through (7) of this subsection"); accord 18 U.S.C. §§ 38, 351, 831, 1201, 1751, 1831, 1832, 2280, 2281, 2291, 2332B, 2332F, 2339C.

<sup>4</sup> See, e.g., 18 U.S.C. § 37:

(a) Offense. – A person who unlawfully and intentionally, using any device, substance, or weapon—

- (1) performs an act of violence against a person at an airport . . . that causes or is likely to cause serious bodily injury . . . or death; or
- (2) destroys or seriously damages the facilities of an airport . . . ,

if such an act endangers or is likely to endanger safety at that airport, or attempts or conspires to do such an act, shall be [penalized] . . . .

See also 18 U.S.C. §§ 1091, 1466A, 1512, 1513, 2241, 2242.

1 sections of the statute. The structure of the AETA employs none of these  
2 conventions.

3 In short, as the Government agrees, the conspiracy provision must be  
4 interpreted as criminalizing “[using interstate commerce] for the purpose of  
5 damaging or interfering with the operations of an animal enterprise; and in  
6 connection with such purpose conspir[ing] or attempt[ing] to do so.” 18 U.S.C.  
7 § 43(a)(1); (a)(2)(C). So interpreted, the provision is substantially overbroad.

8 2. The statute is substantially overbroad because subsection (a)(2)(C)  
9 criminalizes conspiracy to “interfer[e]” with an “animal enterprise”

10 Subsection (a)(2)(C) is substantially overbroad because it makes it a  
11 domestic-terrorism offense to conspire to travel interstate for the purpose of  
12 “interfering” with the operations of an “animal enterprise” as set forth in (a)(1).  
13 The statute thus criminalizes agreements to engage in the ordinary exercise of pure  
14 speech against a near-limitless array of organizations, institutions, and businesses.

15 When a statute does not define a term, the term must be interpreted according  
16 to its “ordinary, contemporary, common meaning.” *Shill*, 740 F.3d at 1351 (internal  
17 quotation marks and citation omitted). Here, the AETA does not define  
18 “interfering” as it appears in subsection (a)(1). Therefore, the dictionary definition  
19 should be applied. *See Meghrig v. KFC Western, Inc.*, 516 U.S. 479, 485-86 (1996)  
20 (interpreting “imminent” by beginning with dictionary definition); *Mississippi v.*  
21 *Louisiana*, 506 U.S. 73, 77-78 (1992) (applying dictionary definition to resolve  
22 plain meaning of “exclusive”). Black’s Law Dictionary defines “[i]nterference” as  
23 “[t]he act of meddling in another’s affairs” or “[a]n obstruction or hindrance.”  
24 BLACK’S LAW DICTIONARY (10th ed. 2014). Relying on a different dictionary  
25 definition, the Ninth Circuit has concluded that “[t]o ‘interfere’ is to ‘oppose,  
26 intervene, hinder, or prevent.’” *United States v. Willfong*, 274 F.3d 1297, 1301 (9th  
27 Cir. 2001) (citing WEBSTER’S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY 704 (3d College ed.  
28 1998)). This plain meaning of the term covers pure speech as well as expressive



1 conduct such as picketing, protesting, leafleting, boycotting, and other protected  
2 speech. *See Hill*, 482 U.S. at 455, 457 (ordinance designed to prevent interference  
3 with police officers overbroad because it could result in arrests for “arguing,  
4 talking, . . . failing to remain quiet, refusing to remain silent, verbal abuse, cursing,  
5 verbally yelling, talking loudly, [and] walking through scene.”) (internal quotation  
6 marks and alterations omitted).

7 The sweep of the term “interfering” is made all the more clear when  
8 contrasted to the other verb in (a)(1), “damaging.” Black’s Law Dictionary defines  
9 “damage” as “[l]oss or injury to person or property.” BLACK’S LAW DICTIONARY  
10 445 (9th ed. 2009); *see also* MERRIAM-WEBSTER COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY 314  
11 (11th ed. 2003) (defining “damage” as “loss or harm resulting from injury to person,  
12 property, *or reputation*.”) (emphasis added). The ordinary meanings of the two  
13 terms thus distinguish “damaging” from “interfering.” Moreover, “[i]t is a well-  
14 established canon of statutory interpretation that the use of different words or terms  
15 within a statute demonstrates that Congress intended to convey a different meaning  
16 for those words.” *SEC v. McCarthy*, 322 F.3d 650, 656 (9th Cir. 2003). Here,  
17 Congress presumably intended to convey a different meaning for “damaging” than  
18 for “interfering.” Thus, consistent with their common meanings and to avoid  
19 superfluosity, we presume that “interfering” means meddling with or obstructing  
20 an enterprise’s operation in a manner that does *not* “cause[] loss or injury” to the  
21 operation.

22 The Supreme Court recognized decades ago that while speech has the power  
23 to “interfer[e]” with or damage business operations, it cannot be proscribed on that  
24 basis. *See Thornhill v. Alabama*, 310 U.S. 88, 99-100 (1940). *Thornhill* involved  
25 a facial challenge to a statute prohibiting picketing a place of business “for the  
26 purpose of hindering, delaying or interfering with any lawful business or enterprise  
27 of another.” *Id.* at 91. The Court held that the statute “sweeps within its ambit . . .  
28 activities that in ordinary circumstances constitute an exercise of freedom of speech



1 . . . [and] results in a continuous and pervasive restraint on all freedom of discussion  
 2 that might reasonably be regarded as within its purview.” *Id.* at 97-98. The Court  
 3 reasoned that violation of the law could “be proved merely by showing that others  
 4 reacted in a way normally expectable of some upon learning the facts of a dispute”  
 5 with the target business. *Id.* at 100. The Court determined that although the  
 6 expression encompassed by the statute might well harm business interests, “the  
 7 danger of injury to an industrial concern is neither so serious nor so imminent” as  
 8 to allow such a sweeping proscription. *Id.* at 105; *see also Hill*, 482 U.S. at 455,  
 9 463-64 (ordinance criminalizing “interfering with policemen” “prohibits speech  
 10 that in any manner interrupts an officer. The Constitution does not allow such  
 11 speech to be made a crime.”) (internal quotation marks and alterations omitted);  
 12 *United Bhd. of Carpenters & Joiners of Am. Local 586 v. NLRB*, 540 F.3d 957, 966  
 13 (9th Cir. 2008) (holding unconstitutional rule designed to restrict speech that  
 14 “would interfere with normal business operations”); *Dorman v. Satti*, 862 F.2d 432,  
 15 436-437 (2d Cir. 1988) (statute prohibiting “interfer[ing]” with or “harass[ing]”  
 16 hunters unconstitutionally overbroad), *Hirschkop v. Snead*, 594 F.2d 356, 371 (4th  
 17 Cir. 1979) (Virginia Code of Professional Responsibility prohibition on statement  
 18 “reasonably likely to interfere with a fair trial” overbroad and vague); *Nitzberg v.*  
 19 *Parks*, 525 F.2d 378, 383 (4th Cir. 1975) (school ban on distribution of literature  
 20 likely to lead to “substantial disruption of or material interference with school  
 21 activities” overbroad).

22 The conspiracy provision’s proscription of “interfering” speech is similarly  
 23 overbroad. Like the statute at issue in *Thornhill*, the provision criminalizes “nearly  
 24 every practicable, effective means whereby those interested . . . may enlighten the  
 25 public” on the subject at hand. *Thornhill*, at 310 U.S. at 104. *Every single time* an  
 26 animal rights group plans a multistate or national protest, it would violate this  
 27 federal law, as such protests are undertaken for the purpose of hindering a  
 28 business’s profits or reputation and hindering its ability to continue to exploit

1 animals. A peaceful sidewalk picket outside a fur store is intended to interfere with  
 2 that business—the purpose is to persuade the public to not patronize the store and  
 3 to shame those who do. A letter to a company threatening to boycott their products  
 4 unless they cease testing on animals also is intended to interfere with that business.  
 5 Because the conspiracy provision’s criminalization of “interfering” includes so vast  
 6 an array of free speech activity, the statute is unconstitutional on its face and cannot  
 7 stand.

8 The conspiracy provision is overbroad for a second reason: its use of the  
 9 term “animal enterprise.” Unlike the term “interfering,” the statute defines “animal  
 10 enterprise.” The problem is that it defines it so broadly that it includes businesses  
 11 and organizations with even a tangential relationship to animals.

12 Subsection (d)(1) of the AETA defines “animal enterprise” as:

- 13 (A) a commercial or academic enterprise that uses or sells animals  
 14 or animal products for profit, food or fiber production,  
 15 agriculture, education, research, or testing;  
 16 (B) a zoo, aquarium, animal shelter, pet store, breeder, furrier,  
 17 circus, or rodeo, or other lawful competitive animal event; or  
 18 (C) any fair or similar event intended to advance agricultural arts  
 and sciences[.]

19 This definition includes any retail stores that make or sell clothing; automobile  
 20 makers and dealers, as well as other entities that use and sell leather products;  
 21 grocery stores, restaurants, and gas stations that sell food; schools and universities;  
 22 and innumerable other commercial enterprises as well as non-profit organizations  
 23 that in some way maintain, use, or sell animals or animal products. Thus, by  
 24 definition, a person could be convicted under this terrorism statute for “interfering  
 25 with an automobile manufacturer because it failed to disclose internal safety reports  
 26 about faulty engineering that put the public’s safety in jeopardy, and the  
 27 interference caused the manufacturer to lose \$10,000 in lost profits or consumer  
 28 good will.” Michael Hill, *United States v. Fullmer and the Animal Enterprise*

1 *Terrorism Act: “True Threats” to Advocacy*, 61 Case W. Res. L. Rev. 981, 1026  
 2 (2011). “Likewise, a person who interferes with a clothing manufacturer’s plans to  
 3 relocate to South America violates AETA if that interference causes” economic  
 4 damages of more than \$10,000. *Id.* As these examples show, the AETA’s  
 5 expansive definition of “animal enterprise” sweeps in far too much speech to pass  
 6 constitutional muster.

7 3. The penalty provisions do not rescue subsection (a)(2)(C) from  
 8 overbreadth, as they are independently overbroad

9 The penalty provisions of the AETA further highlight the overbreadth of the  
 10 conspiracy provision. A person can be criminally punished for conspiracy under  
 11 the AETA even when their purpose of interfering with a business *never results* in  
 12 “economic damage” to the business. And even when “economic damage” does  
 13 result, the statute’s definition of that phrase means that lawful picketers could be  
 14 convicted for losses caused by an unrelated third party or for any security measures  
 15 undertaken by the business that is ostensibly in response to the picket. Because  
 16 these penalty provisions themselves are overbroad, they cannot rescue the  
 17 conspiracy provision of the statute from overbreadth.

18 The AETA’s liability provisions (including the conspiracy provision), set  
 19 forth in section (a), work in tandem with its penalty provisions, set forth in section  
 20 (b). One of the penalty provisions—subsection (b)(1)(A)—concerns conspiracies  
 21 that result in no economic damage or bodily injury. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 43(b)(1)(A).  
 22 Thus, Ms. Kissane could be convicted of domestic terrorism under the AETA for  
 23 alleged overt acts 27-29 alone (leaving the Bay Area, traveling to the Midwest,  
 24 parking and sleeping there, and then returning to the Bay Area). Indictment, Dckt.  
 25 # 1, at 6. More specifically, according to the Government’s Pretrial Memorandum,  
 26 this trip allegedly consisted of (1) traveling across state lines, (2) parking a few  
 27 miles away from an Iowa “chicken and egg factory” and thirty miles away from a  
 28 mink farm that had been identified in documents later seized from Ms. Kissane’s

1 mother's house, (3) sleeping at a rest stop in Minnesota and acting "purposefully  
 2 evasive" when questioned by an officer there, and (4) returning home to the Bay  
 3 Area. *See* Dckt. # 60, at 11-12. These alleged acts alone would have been enough  
 4 to charge and convict Ms. Kissane of a domestic-terrorism offense.

5 Moreover, even when the conspiracy provision is coupled with penalty  
 6 provisions requiring economic damage, it is substantially overbroad. *See*  
 7 § 43(b)(1)(B), (b)(2)(A), (b)(3)(A). The AETA defines economic damage broadly,  
 8 as, *inter alia*:

9 the loss of profits, or increased costs, including losses and increased  
 10 costs resulting from threats, acts of vandalism, property damage,  
 11 trespass, harassment, or intimidation taken against a person or entity  
 12 on account of that person's or entity's connection to, relationship  
 13 with, or transactions with the animal enterprise.

14 18 U.S.C. § 43(d)(3)(A). Economic damage, however,

15 does not include any lawful economic disruption (including a lawful  
 16 boycott) that results from lawful public, governmental, or business  
 17 reaction to the disclosure of information about an animal enterprise.

18 18 U.S.C. § 43(d)(3)(B). Notably, subsection (d)(3)(B)'s caveat on "economic  
 19 damage" does not exempt all protected protest activity, but rather premises  
 20 exemption on the *lawful* reaction of third parties.

21 This broad definition of "economic damage" creates liability for damages  
 22 caused by third-party actions whose relation to the defendants may be extremely  
 23 attenuated. For example, let's say that activists organize an anti-fur picket at a fur  
 24 store, and during the protest they disclose information about abuse of animals at fur  
 25 farms. If a third party then reacts to that information by entering the fur store and  
 26 splashing paint on fur coats, this would qualify as economic damage for which the  
 27 *activists* would be held liable. Similarly, if one business were to unlawfully break  
 28 a contract with another business as a result of activist pressure, subsection (d)(3)(B)  
 would not exempt the activists' activity. The same result would apply if activist

1 pressure led to a government divestment that was later deemed unlawful. *Cf.*  
 2 *Crosby v. Nat'l Foreign Trade Council*, 530 U.S. 363, 366 (2000) (declaring  
 3 unconstitutional a state law restricting authority of state agencies to purchase  
 4 products from companies doing business with Burma).

5 Similarly, increased costs that result from public, governmental or business  
 6 reaction to information-disclosure qualify as economic damage. For example, if an  
 7 animal enterprise chooses to hire additional security in the face of a peaceful and  
 8 lawful picket on a public sidewalk across the street from enterprise headquarters,  
 9 economic damage has occurred sufficient to make the picketers culpable as  
 10 domestic terrorists.

11 In short, the breadth of the plain terms of the conspiracy provision cannot be  
 12 overstated. For this reason, the entire conspiracy and attempt provision must be  
 13 struck down as overbroad.

14 **B. The conspiracy provision is substantially overbroad even if it is**  
 15 **read to reference subsections (a)(2)(A) and (a)(2)(B) instead of**  
 16 **(a)(1)**

17 Even if the Court were to disagree with both the Government and  
 18 Ms. Kissane that the plain meaning of the subsection (a)(2)(C) conspiracy provision  
 19 refers back to (a)(1), and instead interprets the provision to refer back to the  
 20 property-loss subsection, (a)(2)(A), Ms. Kissane's indictment still must be  
 21 dismissed because (a)(2)(A) also is overbroad.<sup>5</sup> Specifically, because (a)(2)(A)  
 22 makes it an act of domestic terrorism to engage in speech that causes an animal  
 23 enterprise or anyone even remotely affiliated with an animal enterprise to lose  
 24 money or increase business expenses, it encroaches far too much on the First  
 25 Amendment to pass constitutional muster.

26  
 27 <sup>5</sup> There is no allegation that Ms. Kissane conspired to threaten under subsection  
 28 (a)(2)(B). Thus, aside from the general challenge to any interpretation of (a)(2)(C)  
 that references (a)(2)(A) and (a)(2)(B), set forth *supra* in Section A of this motion,  
 this motion does not challenge (a)(2)(B).

1. Subsection (a)(2)(A) prohibits causing an animal enterprise or any person or entity having a connection to, relationship to, or transaction with an animal enterprise to spend money or lose profit

Subsection (a)(2)(A) outlaws damaging or causing the loss of “any . . . personal property” of an animal enterprise or of “a person or entity having a connection to, relationship with, or transactions with an animal enterprise.” 18 U.S.C. § 43(a)(2)(A). Black’s Law Dictionary defines “personal property” as “[a]ny moveable or *intangible* thing that is subject to ownership and not classified as real property.” BLACK’S LAW DICTIONARY (10th ed. 2014). Under this definition, money and profit are both property. *Accord* 18 U.S.C.A. § 2114(a) (“A person who assaults any person having lawful charge . . . of *any money or other property* of the United States, with intent to rob, steal, or purloin such mail matter, money, or other property of the United States . . . shall, for the first offense, be imprisoned not more than ten years). Indeed, when Congress means to protect *only* tangible property, it does so explicitly: In over thirty different criminal and non-criminal statutes, Congress has specifically referred to “tangible personal property” rather than just personal property.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> See, e.g., 4 U.S.C. § 107(a) (relating to taxation of property sold by United States); 7 U.S.C. § 941(c) (relating to taxation of Rural Telephone Bank); 7 U.S.C. § 3318(d) (relating to grants by Department of Agriculture); 11 U.S.C. § 541(b)(8) (relating to property in bankruptcy); 11 U.S.C. § 722 (relating to bankruptcy redemption); 12 U.S.C. § 1464(c)(2)(C) (relating to activity of federal savings associations); 12 U.S.C. § 1768 (taxation of federal credit unions); 12 U.S.C. § 2290(a) (taxation of Federal Financing Bank); 15 U.S.C. § 78kkk(e) [*sic*] (taxation of SIPC); 15 U.S.C. § 381(a)(1) (property subject to income tax); 15 U.S.C. § 2301(1) (defining consumer product); 15 U.S.C. § 6611(a)(2) (relating to tort damages in Y2K actions); 18 U.S.C. § 1513(b) (criminalizing causing damage or threatening damage to “tangible property of another person” for the purpose of preventing testimony of a witness at an “official proceeding”); 19 U.S.C. § 81o(e) (relating to ad valorem taxation); 22 U.S.C. § 2697(d) (relating to acceptance of gifts on behalf of the United States); 26 U.S.C. § 48(a)(5)(D) (relating to energy tax credit); 26 U.S.C. § 48C(c)(2) (relating to energy project tax credit); 26 U.S.C. § 110(c)(3) (relating to construction allowances); 26 U.S.C. § 144(a)(12)(C) (relating to tax exemption for qualified bonds); 26 U.S.C. § 168 (relating to depreciation of property); 26 U.S.C. § 170(a)(3) (relating to charitable deductions); 26 U.S.C. § 199(c)(5) (relating to calculation of income); 26 U.S.C. § 263A(b)(1) (relating to



Thus, under the plain meaning of its terms, subsection (a)(2)(A) prohibits causing a business to spend money or lose profit. And this is exactly how the provision has been interpreted. The Third Circuit in *United States v. Fullmer*, 584 F.3d 132 (3d Cir. 2009), determined that the predecessor law to the AETA criminalized causing increased business costs or the loss of profit or increased business costs. The Animal Enterprise Protection Act (AEPA) prohibited “intentionally caus[ing] physical disruption to the functioning of an animal enterprise by intentionally stealing, *damaging, or causing the loss of, any property (including animals or records) used by the animal enterprise*, and thereby caus[ing] economic damage exceeding \$10,000 to that enterprise.” 18 U.S.C. § 43 (a)(2) (2002) (emphasis added). The defendants in *Fullmer* urged that the phrase “damaging, or causing the loss of, any property” should not be interpreted to include causing increased business costs or the loss of profit. *See* 584 F.3d at 159. The Third Circuit disagreed, finding the property-loss element met because the evidence showed that the animal enterprise spent \$15,000 on new computer software to better guard against future electronic civil disobedience campaigns. *See id*; *see also United States v. Fullmer*, No. 06-4211, Appellee’s Consolidated Brief at 37-38 (3d Cir. June 17, 2008) (“HLS had to purchase new hardware, new fire walls and additional software to combat the attack”). Moreover, while the Third

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capitalization of certain expenses); 26 U.S.C. § 274(j)(3) (relating to employee achievement awards); 26 U.S.C. § 408(m)(2)(F) (defining “collectible” for tax purposes); 26 U.S.C. § 543(b) (relating to taxation of personal holding company income); 26 U.S.C. § 1298(d) (relating to special treatment of leased property); 26 U.S.C. § 1397C(d) (relating to definition of enterprise zone business); 26 U.S.C. § 2503(g)(2) (relating to tax treatment of certain gifts); 26 U.S.C. § 2522(e) (same); 26 U.S.C. § 6323(b) (relating to property subject to tax liens); 26 U.S.C. § 6334(a)(13) (relating to property subject to levying); 29 U.S.C. § 1302(g) (relating to taxation of Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation); 31 U.S.C. § 6306 (relating to authority of agencies to vest title in certain property); 42 U.S.C. § 238(d) (relating to acceptance of gifts on behalf of United States by Secretary of Health and Human Services); 42 U.S.C. § 4622(a)(2) (describing losses eligible for payment when agency displaces business or farm operation).



1 Circuit declined to expressly decide whether causing profit-loss also would satisfy  
 2 the property-loss provision, it identified profit-loss in a list of “loss[es] of property”  
 3 in response to a different defense argument. *Id.* (“Defendants argue that the proper  
 4 instruction would have required the jury to find that Defendants *actually caused* a  
 5 “loss of property” in excess of \$10,000 . . . .” The Government presented ample  
 6 evidence at trial that Defendants’ protest activity directed at [the animal enterprise]  
 7 actually caused [the enterprise] a loss well over \$10,000 . . . electronic civil  
 8 disobedience directed toward [the enterprise] cost the company \$400,000 in lost  
 9 business . . . .”).

10 This interpretation of “property” is consistent with how a similar provision  
 11 of a very different federal law has been interpreted. The Price-Anderson Act  
 12 governs liability-related issues for non-military nuclear facilities, partially  
 13 indemnifying the nuclear industry against liability claims arising from nuclear  
 14 incidents while also ensuring compensation coverage for the general public. *See*  
 15 *generally* 42 U.S.C. § 2014. Among many other provisions, the Act determines the  
 16 law applicable to cases about “loss of, or damage to, or loss of use of property”  
 17 caused by a nuclear incident. 42 U.S.C. § 2014(w). In *Radiation Sterilizers, Inc.*  
 18 *v. United States*, 867 F. Supp. 1465, 1469-70 (E.D. Wash. 1994), the court  
 19 considered whether loss of profits, loss of customers, loss of goodwill, loss of  
 20 access to operating cash and credit, loss of business opportunity and diversion of  
 21 management time and resources amounted to “damage to . . . property” as  
 22 described in the Act. The court noted that some of this property is intangible, but  
 23 held that it met the statutory provision anyway, as it has long been established in  
 24 contract and tort law that a business’s property includes intangibles such as profits  
 25 and business goodwill. *See id.* at 1471.

26 Only one court has interpreted “any property” under (a)(2)(A) differently,  
 27 but its reasoning was erroneous and this Court should not follow it. In *United States*  
 28 *v. Johnson*, No. 14-CR-390, 2015 WL 1058087, at \*3-\*4 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 25, 2015),

1 the court never discussed the plain meaning of “property” under (a)(2)(A). Instead,  
 2 the court focused only on the interaction between the AETA’s liability and penalty  
 3 provisions, sections (a) and (b), respectively. *See id.* The court reasoned that  
 4 “specific inclusion of the defined term ‘economic damage’ in the penalties  
 5 provision of the statute, but not in the offense conduct, indicates that Congress did  
 6 not intend to criminalize conduct that solely causes economic loss as damage to  
 7 property.” *Id.* at \*5 (quoting *Bates v. United States*, 522 U.S. 23, 29-30 (1997)  
 8 (“Where Congress includes particular language in one section of a statute but omits  
 9 it in another section of the same Act, it is generally presumed that Congress acts  
 10 intentionally and purposely in the disparate inclusion or exclusion.”)).

11 This interpretation is erroneous, because a *Bates*-style statutory analysis only  
 12 makes sense where Congress has employed the statutory term at issue in a way  
 13 (here, “any personal property”) that renders subsequent use of different terms (here,  
 14 “economic damage”) meaningful. For example, in *Duncan v. Walker*, 533 U.S.  
 15 167, 173-74 (2001), the Supreme Court relied on *Bates* when interpreting the  
 16 Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act’s provision tolling the time for filing  
 17 a habeas action while a properly filed “State post-conviction or other collateral  
 18 review” is pending. The habeas petitioner argued that “other collateral review”  
 19 should be read to include *federal* habeas review, even though in several other  
 20 sections of the statute Congress explicitly used the words “State or Federal” to  
 21 denote the given provision’s application to both of these types of proceedings. *See*,  
 22 *id.* at 172-73. *Walker* held that it would be anomalous for Congress to use the words  
 23 “State or Federal” repeatedly, and then deviate from this clear language with the  
 24 phrase “State post-conviction or other collateral review”, without meaning to  
 25 exclude federal review. *Id.* at 173-74.

26 In contrast, the AETA does not discuss “causing economic damage” and  
 27 “damaging or caus[ing] the loss of any . . . personal property” in the same  
 28 provision. *Compare* 18 U.S.C. §§ 43(a)(2)(A) with 43(b). By its plain meaning,

1 “caus[ing] the loss of any . . . property” is broad enough to include causing the loss  
2 of money or profit. That such damage *also* counts as “economic damage” for  
3 penalty purposes presents no anomaly. And because there is nothing about the  
4 structure of the statute to suggest that the broad phrase “personal property” should  
5 be interpreted otherwise, Congress’ use of different language in the different  
6 provisions has no particular import.

7 Moreover, the *Johnson* court’s interpretation would render Congress’s use of  
8 the word “any” in “any . . . personal property” void. To interpret “*any* personal  
9 property” to mean “only tangible property” would divest the word “any” of effect.  
10 *See Harrison v. PPG Indus.*, 446 U.S. 578, 589 (1980) (concluding “that the phrase,  
11 ‘any other final action,’ in the absence of legislative history to the contrary, must  
12 be construed to mean exactly what it says, namely, *any other* final action”) (emphasis in original); *Ali v. Fed. Bureau of Prisons*, 552 U.S. 214, 221 (2008)  
13 (“Congress could not have chosen a more all-encompassing phrase than ‘any other  
14 law enforcement officer’”). But it is “a cardinal principle of statutory construction”  
15 that a court must “give effect, if possible, to every clause and word of a statute.”  
16 *Duncan*, 533 U.S. at 174 (citations omitted). The *Johnson* court’s analysis requires  
17 ignoring the word “any” altogether.

18 The *Johnson* court also misrelied on Congress’s inclusion of the word  
19 “used,” in the (a)(2)(A) phrase “*used* by an animal enterprise,” to buttress its  
20 interpretation. *See* 2015 WL 1058087, at \*3; *see also* 18 U.S.C. § 43(a)(2)(A)  
21 (“intentionally damages or causes the loss of any real or personal property  
22 (including animals or records) *used* by an animal enterprise”) (emphasis added).  
23 Under the *Johnson* court’s reasoning, only tangible property is “used,” so causing  
24 the loss of intangible property (like profit) doesn’t meet the elements of (a)(2)(A).  
25 *See* 2015 WL 1058087, at \*3. This logic is flawed, and it would not save the statute  
26 from overbreadth regardless. First, all the parties in *Johnson*, including the  
27 Government, agreed that money may be “used.” 2015 WL 1058087, at \*4. Thus,  
28

the *Johnson* court’s analysis would require interpreting the phrase “causing the loss of property” to include causing a business to *spend money it already has*, but not losing profit to be gained. Aside from being unnecessarily tortured, this construction still gives rise to a serious overbreadth problems as set forth *supra*. Second, the analysis ignores the rest of the sentence. Subsection (a)(2)(A) addresses one who “intentionally damages or causes the loss of any real or personal property (including animals or records) used by an animal enterprise, *or any real or personal property of a person or entity having a connection to, relationship with, or transactions with an animal enterprise.*” 18 U.S.C. § 43(a)(2)(A) (emphasis added). The term “used” does not appear after the second reference to “real or personal property.” If “used” limits the definition of “personal property” in the first clause, then “personal property” would have to mean something different in each of the two clauses. So construed, the AETA would protect only tangible property belonging to an animal enterprise, but all property belonging to a person or entity connected to, related to, or transacting with an animal enterprise. This is illogical.

In sum, under the reasoning of *Johnson*, a substantive violation under (a)(2)(A) would require physical harm to tangible property—for example, breaking into a lab and releasing animals. Ms. Kissane agrees that requiring physical harm to tangible property would make a better criminal statute. But this is simply not the statute that Congress wrote. By its plain terms, the AETA outlaws damaging or causing the loss of “*any . . . personal property*” of an animal enterprise, including causing purely economic loss.

2. The prohibition of causing a business to spend money or lose profit criminalizes a substantial amount of protected speech

With the proper interpretation of (a)(2)(A) established, the overbreadth of the subsection is clear: virtually all effective advocacy by animal rights activists is prohibited. As described *supra*, any activist who crosses state lines or uses the internet to organize a protest at an animal enterprise that results in the business

1 spending money or losing profit has violated the statute. On a larger and more  
 2 mainstream scale, journalistic and documentary efforts could be criminalized as  
 3 “domestic terrorism” offenses under the statute. For example, the recent  
 4 documentary *Blackfish* meets all of the requirements for an AETA violation. The  
 5 film levied sharp criticism at SeaWorld aquatic theme parks for its treatment of  
 6 captive killer whales. SeaWorld, which uses captive animals for entertainment, is  
 7 undoubtedly an animal enterprise. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 43(d)(1) (defining “animal  
 8 enterprise”). The filmmakers’ admitted “purpose” was to convince people to avoid  
 9 patronizing SeaWorld’s parks and ultimately affect their bottom line.<sup>7</sup> *See* 18  
 10 U.S.C. § 43(a)(1) (prohibiting using facility of interstate commerce to damage or  
 11 interfere with the operations of an animal enterprise). And the resulting damage  
 12 caused SeaWorld more than a billion dollars in lost profits, reduced market  
 13 capitalization, and corrective expenditures.<sup>8</sup> *See* 18 U.S.C. § 43(a)(2)(A).

14 The overbreadth of the AETA has real consequences. On its face, the Act  
 15 criminalizes picketing activity if the picketing is effective enough to close down a  
 16 fur store.<sup>9</sup> Non-violent civil disobedience, like sitting down in front of the doors of  
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18 <sup>7</sup> *See* Austin Siegemund-Broka, ‘*Blackfish*’ Director Talks SeaWorld Revenue  
 19 Drop: “People Are Truly Willing to Change Ethically”, THE HOLLYWOOD  
 20 REPORTER, Aug. 20, 2014, available at  
<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/blackfish-director-talks-seaworld-revenue-726447>.

21 <sup>8</sup> The negative publicity from the film led SeaWorld to lose \$925 million in market  
 22 capitalization; SeaWorld also faced a securities class action lawsuit based on its  
 23 failure to disclose potential liability related to the company’s treatment of killer  
 24 whales and the negative publicity resulting from the documentary. *See, e.g.*, Eriq  
 25 Gardner, *SeaWorld Hit With Lawsuit Over Failure to Advise on ‘Blackfish’ Impact*,  
 26 THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER, Sept. 10, 2014, available at  
<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/thr-esq/seaworld-hit-lawsuit-failure-advise-731846>. The company also announced a multi-million dollar expansion of its orca  
 27 tanks in response to the negative publicity generated by the film. *See* Tony Perry,  
 28 *Amid ‘Blackfish’ backlash, SeaWorld to expand orca environments*, LA. TIMES,  
 Aug. 14, 2014, available at <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-seaworld-orca-plans-20140814-story.html>.

<sup>9</sup> *See* Seth Prince and Spencer Heinz, *Activists Look Beyond Fur Shop’s Move*, THE

1 a business, also is transformed under the Act from the state crime of obstruction to  
 2 a federal crime of terrorism when it is performed by animal rights activists; and a  
 3 raucous demonstration with a giant video screen showing primate experimentation  
 4 outside an animal researcher's home would violate the AETA.<sup>10</sup> Undercover  
 5 investigators who work with local prosecutors and wear hidden cameras risk  
 6 terrorism charges if their investigation focuses on a slaughterhouse.<sup>11</sup> *See generally*  
 7 152 Cong. Rec. E2100-01 (Nov. 13, 2006) (statement of Hon. Steve Israel: "This  
 8 bill criminalizes conduct that 'intentionally damages or causes the loss of any real  
 9 or personal property,' however, the bill fails to define what 'real or personal  
 10 property' means. As a result, legitimate advocacy -- such as a boycott, protest, or  
 11 mail campaign -- that causes an animal enterprise to merely lose profits could be  
 12 criminalized.").

13 Because the AETA fails to include any *actus reus*, its overbreadth cannot be  
 14 eliminated by use of a limiting construction. Subsection (a)(2)(A) fails to set forth  
 15 the categories of conduct that constitute animal enterprise terrorism, instead  
 16 punishing *any* interstate act (including speech) done for a broadly defined *purpose*  
 17 (interfering with an animal enterprise) and having a broadly defined *effect* (causing  
 18 damage or loss to such enterprise). Reading an *actus reus* element into the statute  
 19 (for example, by interpreting the AETA to prohibit *using force or violence* to  
 20 damage or cause the loss of any personal property) or changing the language of the  
 21

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22 OREGONIAN, Nov.30, 2006, at B2 (discussing the Act's prohibition of such  
 23 activity).

24 <sup>10</sup> *See* Doug Erickson, *Protecting Researchers or Chilling Free Speech? Opponents*  
 25 *and Animal Rights Activists Say the Law Goes Too Far, but Advocates Say it Gives*  
 26 *Needed Protection*, WIS. STATE J., Nov. 26, 2006, at A1 (discussing the possibility  
 that the Act would criminalize both actions).

27 <sup>11</sup> *See* Kim Severson, *Upton Sinclair, Now Playing on YouTube*, N.Y. TIMES, Mar.  
 28 12, 2008, at F1 (stating undercover investigators at slaughterhouses risked  
 prosecution under the AETA).



provision to prohibit only “damaging or causing physical harm to tangible property” would be a “serious invasion of the legislative domain.” *United States v. Nat’l Treasury Emps. Union*, 513 U.S. 454, 479 n. 26 (1995). A court may not “rewrite a . . . law to conform it to constitutional requirements.” *Virginia v. Am. Booksellers Ass’n*, 484 U.S. 383, 397 (1988); *see also Erznoznik v. Jacksonville*, 422 U.S. 205, 216 (1975) (a court may not construe a statute narrowly to save it from overbreadth if the statute is “not readily susceptible to a narrowing construction.”).

In sum, even if the Court holds that the conspiracy provision, subsection (a)(2)(C), refers back not to (a)(1) but to (a)(2)(A), the statute cannot be saved from constitutional infirmity; subsection (a)(2)(A) still is overbroad. *See Smith v. California*, 361 U.S. 147, 151 (1959) (“the usual doctrines as to the separability of constitutional and unconstitutional applications of statutes may not apply where their effect is to leave standing a statute patently capable of many unconstitutional applications, threatening those who validly exercise their rights of free expression with the expense and inconvenience of criminal prosecution.”).

### **C. The AETA’s First Amendment “Rule Of Construction” does not cure its overbreadth**

The AETA’s First Amendment “rule of construction” cannot cure subsection (a)(2)(A) or (a)(2)(C)’s overbreadth. Subsection (e)(1) directs that the AETA shall not be construed “to prohibit any expressive conduct (including peaceful picketing or other peaceful demonstration) protected from legal prohibition by the First Amendment.” But the Supreme Court has made clear that “interfering” is ineluctably intertwined with expressive conduct, *see supra* at Section II.A.2, and the statute does not otherwise limit the term. Because courts lack the authority to read “interfering” out of the statute, the savings clause can state nothing more than the basic proposition that a statute cannot override a constitutional right.

Moreover, there is ample case law holding that Congress cannot shield an unconstitutional statute from scrutiny simply by adding a First Amendment



exception that contradicts the broad sweep of its substantive provisions. *See, e.g., Waste Mgmt. Holdings, Inc. v. Gilmore*, 252 F.3d 316, 333 (4th Cir. 2001) (savings clause could not save regulatory statute from a constitutional challenge because it was “repugnant to the straightforward, limiting language of the respective statutory provisions”) (citing *Looney v. Com.*, 133 S.E. 753, 755 (Va. 1926)); *Fisher v. King*, 232 F.3d 391, 395 (4th Cir. 2000) (savings clause is disregarded as void when it is inconsistent with the body of the statute); *CISPES (Comm. in Solidarity with the People of El Sal.) v. FBI*, 770 F.2d 468, 474 (5th Cir. 1985) (savings clause “cannot substantively operate to save an otherwise invalid statute”); *State v. Machholz*, 574 N.W.2d 415, 421 n.4 (Minn. 1998) (same); *Long v. State*, 931 S.W.2d 285, 295 (Tex. Crim. App. 1996) (same).<sup>12</sup> If the reverse were true, then the following law would be constitutional: “[I]t shall be a crime to say anything in public unless the speech is protected by the first and fourteenth amendment.” LAURENCE H. TRIBE, *AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW* § 12-26, at 716 (1st ed. 1978). This, established precedent does not permit.

This precedent makes clear that a savings clause may operate, as it did in *CISPES*, to validate one of *several competing constructions*, but it cannot change the plain meaning of a statute’s substantive provisions. *See* 770 F.2d at 474. As shown above, (a)(2)(C)’s prohibition on interstate travel for the purpose of damaging or interfering with an animal enterprise cannot be interpreted as anything but a broad prohibition on speech opposing businesses that exploit animals, and (a)(2)(A)’s focus on an individual who “damages or causes the loss of any real or personal property” cannot legitimately be interpreted to mean one who “physically

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<sup>12</sup> Relatedly, in *Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project*, 561 U.S. 1, 36 (2010), the Court considered a First Amendment savings clause similar to the AETA’s as evidence of Congress’s intent that a material-support statute would not violate the First Amendment. But despite the savings clause, the court nonetheless analyzed the statute’s substantive provisions and definitions to determine whether the Constitution was violated. *See id.* at 18-25.

1 damages any personal property except money or intangible property.” Where the  
2 only fair interpretation of the plain terms of a statute would penalize a substantial  
3 amount of protected speech, stating that the First Amendment will not be violated  
4 simply does not make it so.

5 Moreover, even if a well-drafted savings clause could operate to limit a  
6 statute’s substantive reach, the AETA’s broad First Amendment exception cannot  
7 dispel the plain sweep of the statute because it fails to clarify what is protected  
8 under the First Amendment and what is not. The savings clause thus “trades  
9 overbreadth for vagueness.” *State v. Moyle*, 705 P.2d 740, 748 n.12 (Or. 1985) (*en*  
10 *banc*); *see also Rubin v. City of Santa Monica*, 823 F. Supp. 709 (C.D. Cal. 1993)  
11 (First Amendment exception “beg[s] the question. What are protected activities and  
12 what are nonprotected activities? What does the First Amendment exception really  
13 mean?”). Laypersons cannot be presumed to understand what the First Amendment  
14 does and does not protect to the degree of certainty required for adequate notice in  
15 the criminal context. *See Long*, 931 S.W.2d at 295. (“an attempt to charge people  
16 with notice of First Amendment caselaw would undoubtedly serve to chill free  
17 expression”). And it forces courts to “abandon[] scrutiny of the statute altogether  
18 for case-by-case adjudication.” *Moyle*, 705 P.2d at 748 n.12;

19 Even taken at face value, the AETA’s First Amendment exception covers  
20 only “expressive conduct,” with no mention of other protected activity such as pure  
21 speech. 18 U.S.C § 43(e). This leaves to the protestor the responsibility of  
22 determining what constitutes “expressive conduct,” a question that has bedeviled  
23 Supreme Court Justices, to speak nothing of laypersons. *See generally* John  
24 Greenman, *On Communication*, 106 MICH. L. REV. 1337, 1339-40 (May 2008)  
25 (“The law nominally protects acts that are ‘expressive,’ but rarely defines that  
26 word”). *Compare United States v. O’Brien*, 391 U.S. 367, 376 (1968) (conduct  
27 cannot “be labeled ‘speech’ whenever the person engaging in the conduct intends  
28 thereby to express an idea”), with *Spence v. Washington*, 418 U.S. 405, 409 (1974)

(conduct is protected when it is “sufficiently imbued with elements of communication”), and *Virginia v. Black*, 538 U.S. 343, 360-61 (2003) (referring to “symbolic expression” and “symbolic conduct” as protected in some circumstances). And the examples of “expressive conduct” provided in the Rules of Construction—“peaceful picketing or other peaceful demonstration”—only beg the question. Much conduct is expressive and protected, even if it is not “peaceful.” See e.g., *Brandenburg v. Ohio*, 395 U.S. 444, 446 n.1 (1969) (holding that a speaker’s urging “revengeance” while others shouted “bury the [racial epithet]” is protected speech); *NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware Co.*, 458 U.S. 886, 902 (1982) (holding that threats by a civil rights leader that he would “break [the] damn neck” of anyone who frequented a “racist store[]” is protected). Other expressive conduct, like civil disobedience, is widely recognized as a peaceful form of demonstration, but is not protected by the First Amendment.

At base, the AETA’s Rule of Construction requires potential speakers to ignore the broad reach of the statute’s substantive provision in favor of their own determination of what counts as expressive conduct and what kind of protest activity will be protected by the First Amendment. Will an animal rights activist who wants to place a flier outside a fur store condemning the store as filled with “[expletive] murderers” who “should be run out of business” rest easy that her speech should be safe from prosecution as “expressive conduct” comparable to a “peaceful demonstration,” when it is more accurately described as aggressive pure speech that is clearly intended to cause the store a loss of profit and goodwill? Reasonable people will steer clear of advocacy that might be protected but that also may be close to the First Amendment line. *NAACP v. Button*, 371 U.S. 415, 433 (1963). Thus, the savings clause only lends itself to unconstitutional vagueness while doing nothing to rein in the statute’s unconstitutional overbreadth.

**D. The AETA threatens to chill speech**

The overbreadth of the AETA threatens to chill the freedom of speech and of the press that the First Amendment is designed to protect. Indeed, the Act creates a prior restraint so severe that it threatens to freeze such speech altogether. *See Neb. Press Ass’n v. Stuart*, 427 U.S. 539, 559 (1976) (prior restraint on speech is “the most serious and the least tolerable infringement on First Amendment rights”—it does more than “‘chill[]’ speech, . . . [it] ‘freezes’ it at least for a time.”).

Even if prosecutions never or only infrequently result from a boycotting or leafleting campaign, the threat of prosecution is enough to deter people from engaging in politically motivated activity and to drive debate on animal-rights issues from the marketplace of ideas. *See Button*, 371 U.S. at 433 (striking Virginia statute prohibiting solicitation of legal services because of its potential to cause individuals to avoid speech out of fear of prosecution). For example, fearing criminal prosecution for a “terrorist” act, potential whistleblowers and others will “steer far wider” than if the scope of the law was clearly demarcated. *Grayned v. City of Rockford*, 408 U.S. 104, 108-09 (1972). This is a serious, and an intolerable, infringement on core speech, and one that cannot constitutionally be allowed to stand. Accordingly, this Court should hold the statute unconstitutionally overbroad, and dismiss the indictment against Ms. Kissane.

**CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, the Court must dismiss the indictment against Ms. Kissane on the ground that the AETA is unconstitutional on its face.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 19, 2016

/s/ John C. Ellis, Jr.

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Counsel for the Defendant certifies that the foregoing pleading has been electronically served on the following parties by virtue of their registration with the CM/ECF system:

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Respectfully submitted,

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